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Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the sixty-first session

Contemporary forms of xenophobia

Letter dated 10 July 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-first session of the Assembly of an additional item entitled "Contemporary forms of xenophobia", under the heading "Maintenance of international peace and security".

Pursuant to rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have attached an explanatory memorandum in support of the above request (see annex).

It would be appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) **Pak** Gil Yon
Ambassador
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Annex

Explanatory memorandum

Since the outset of the current year, intolerable moves of Japanese authorities entered into an utmost reckless and hideous phase, abusing the national sovereign rights of Koreans in Japan, in wanton violation of the internationally recognized norms and regulations.

Japanese public security authorities mobilized hundreds of heavily armed policemen and even armed vehicles, more than several scores of times, from the early part of the year, to carry out search operations against the facilities related to the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon), including offices of Chongryon branches, Korean schools and houses of Koreans, and perpetrated a series of such outrageous acts as assaulting and arresting them for no reason.

Lately, on 25 April 2007, Japanese police authorities enforced a fascist search inside the Korean printing house by more than 300 armed policemen, while deploying 15 large armoured buses and 42 patrol cars to the scene.

They completely checked the front road of the printing house, created dreadful fear all around, threatened to handcuff anyone disobeying, including for the crime of obstructing the execution of official duties, and physically assaulted Korean compatriots protesting the forced search, by kicking and striking them. This forced search of more than four hours by such a large force against a small institution constitutes hooligan doings by fascists tyrants.

Japanese authorities went further, the more to force Chongryon to sell land and building of the Hall of its headquarters, in an ill-minded attempt to exterminate Chongryon at any cost.

Japanese authorities instructed the Resolution and Collection Corporation of Japan to impose an extremely discriminatory and unfair demand on Chongryon, persistently turning down its sincere and reasonable proposals to redeem debts, thus unilaterally blocking all avenues for debt settlement.

This is nothing but a wanton infringement upon the sovereignty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), which no earlier regime of Japan so dared, as it is a move to physically annihilate the centre of activities of Chongryon, which defends the democratic national rights of Koreans in Japan, and to stamp out activities of Chongryon and Koreans in Japan.

Japanese authorities, at the same time, set in motion reptile media to float various kinds of false reports aimed at tarnishing the image of Chongryon in a bid to frantically incite bitterness towards the DPRK and Chongryon in its society.

This has created in various parts of Japan the same terror-ridden atmosphere reminiscent of operations for hunting Korean as that which prevailed during the great Kanto quake and triggered again the fascist tyranny through which the Japanese reactionaries forcibly dissolved the "Association of Koreans in Japan" half a century ago.

Chongryon is a legitimate overseas compatriots organization of the DPRK whose mission is to protect the democratic national rights of the direct victims of

the criminal drafting of Koreans by the Japanese imperialists in the past and the Koreans in Japan, their descendants.

Repression of the Organization of Koreans in Japan and Koreans by Japanese authorities dates back far beyond recent days. During the last several decades, human rights violations by Japanese authorities, such as political suppression of Chongryon, national discrimination, violence against and maltreatment of Koreans in Japan, never ceased a single day. Thereafter, Japan became a subject of serious concern to human rights treaty bodies of the United Nations to which Japan is a State party.

In March 2001, when the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women considered the periodic report of Japan, it said that "although Koreans are no longer required legally or administratively, to change their names to a Japanese name, the Committee expresses its concern that Japanese authorities reportedly continue to urge such changes and that Koreans feel obliged to do so for fear of discrimination", and recommended that Japanese authorities take necessary measures to prevent such practices.

Moreover, the Human Rights Committee (HRC), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) also expressed their respective grave concern over the Japanese "refusal to recognize Korean schools" in Japan (HRC, sixty-fourth session), "unequal treatment with regard to access to higher education by Korean students" (CRC, eighteenth session) and "patterns of de jure and de facto discrimination against all minority groups" (CESCR, twenty-sixth session).

Such acts by the Japanese authorities of discriminating against Koreans in Japan and xenophobia are an extreme expression of racial discrimination and grave human rights violations, blatantly violating major international human rights norms, such as article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which stipulates that "everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person"; article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which stipulates the right of peoples to self-determination; article 1, paragraph 2, of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which stipulates that "in no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence"; article 2 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, on eliminating all forces of racial discrimination; and Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations, which stipulates "a universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion".

The DPRK cannot remain unconcerned at such inhumane behaviour by Japanese authorities, particularly because Japan invaded the Asian countries and committed a massacre of millions of innocent people, but has been distorting its aggressive history instead of liquidating it and seeks a permanent membership of the Security Council of the United Nations.

The acts of Japanese cruel repression of Koreans in Japan and suppression of their organization constitute huge threats to peace and security in the Northeast Asia region and, further, to international peace and stability.